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1. Wroclaw, the seat of the Lower Silesian voivodship, is an important administrative, industrial, and communications center in the recovered territories of southwest Poland. It is also an educational center with one university, one polytechnic institute, several colleges and high schools. It is situated on flat terrain on the River Odra with its many canals which flow across the town. Probably for this reason it has a rather unhealthy, damp climate. It occupies an area of about 75 sq. miles with many parks and green spots; the area, except for the center of the town, is not densely built-up.
2. The number of inhabitants was about 300,000 in 1953. About 85% were Poles who had settled there after 1945, and who came mostly from Lwow and the eastern provinces of prewar Poland which were incorporated into the USSR in 1945. The remainder were naturalized Germans. The general appearance of the people was poor in comparison with Warsaw. In 1953 there was a visible decline of the standard of living in comparison with that of 1947 and 1948. The people were dressed poorly and the Wroclaw shops were not so well supplied with commodities. For locations and description of main buildings and points of interest known to Source, see Annex A.7
3. The streets and main roads were in good condition, were paved with asphalt or cobblestones, and were between 25 and 30 ft. wide. The streets were lighted by electricity except for some side streets which had gas light. The lighting was rather poor.
4. The town suffered badly during World War II and about 50% of the buildings were destroyed. There was a partial clearing of the ruins, and reconstruction of some damaged houses, but few new buildings

SECRET

were constructed until 1953. For this reason, the housing problem was acute and a number of people lived in one room. On the other hand, the destruction and comparatively small population in regard to the large area gave the impression that Wroclaw was a deserted town.

5. It was always difficult to get a hotel room in Wroclaw, and, as a rule, the time of residence could not exceed one week. This stemmed from the fact that industrial exhibitions and conferences on a national scale were often held there. To get a hotel room one had to show his travel orders and identity papers, and to fill out two forms. A tip of 5 to 10 zloty to the hotel porter usually helped get a room. The cost of staying in a hotel was, depending on the category, between 20 and 40 zloty per day.
6. All the public utilities in Wroclaw were in good working order.
  - a. It had a central water supply system and all the houses were connected to the main pipes. The water was good for drinking without boiling and there was no restriction on water consumption.
  - b. Electricity was supplied from the main grid. There was AC current 220/380 volts, but a part of the city had direct current of 220 volts. There were the usual restrictions on the use of electricity by private consumers.
  - c. Almost all houses are supplied with gas from the main city gas works. There were no restrictions on the use of gas for cooking or bathrooms.
  - d. Almost all houses in Wroclaw were connected with the city sewage system.
  - e. Wroclaw had a central automatic dial system for telephoning. A four-digit system was used. A free line was indicated by an interrupted dial tone; a busy one by a continuous dial tone.
7. The Wroclaw radio station was located about 12 miles southeast of the town. It had an RCA 50-kw. transmitter which was supplied by UNRRA around 1947. It operated on middle-wave band and was modulated by a Class "B" modulator. The driver of the transmitter was crystal-controlled. Electric power was supplied to the radio station from the main grid through the rectifiers and filters which were located in a special room under the main transmitter. The amplifier room and the control room were also in the same building. High-frequency modulated energy was supplied to the aerial tower by a coaxial cable. This was an experimental aerial tower constructed completely of wood and about 400 ft. high. The aerial wire was placed inside the tower. The audio frequency signals came to the transmitter through a cable from the main amplifier room which was located in a special building in the suburbs of Wroclaw. (This building also had the largest electric organ in Poland; it was reconstructed in 1949.)
8. The city transportation system was based chiefly on streetcars which were of an old-type and were of a pale yellow color. Streetcars were overcrowded during rush hours, between 0600 and 0800 hours in the morning and 1500 and 1700 hours at night. The price of a streetcar ticket was 45 groszy; they were bought from the conductor. Most conductors were women. There were a few taxis. Traffic in the town was negligible because there were so few cars. There were also old buses for suburban and other short distance transportation. Wroclaw had two railroad stations, the Main Station and the Odra Station. I have no information on air transportation, or water transportation on the Odra River.

#### ANNEX A.

Overlay based on city plan of Wroclaw 1:20,000

SECRET

SECRET

## Legend to Annex A: (Overlay based on city plan of Wroclaw 1:20,000)

1. Lower Silesian district electric power administration office (zarzad energetyczny okregu dolno slaskiego), Powstancow Slaskich Place. This was a four or five-story brick building of about 30 x 35 ft. with gray plastered walls.
2. Main Railroad Station (Dworzec Główny), Swierczewskiego Avenue. This was an old, partly one-story and partly two-story, brick building with gray plastered walls, built in the Moresque style; about 120 x 450 ft.
3. Post office (urząd pocztowy), Dworcowy Place, near the main railroad station. This was a two-story brick building with gray plastered walls.
4. Gasoline service station (stacja benzynowa). This was a small station with one pump, near the main railroad station.
5. Taxi stand (postoj taksówek), next to the main railroad station.
6. Grand Hotel (Hotel Grand), Swierczewskiego Avenue. This was a four or five-story brick building with gray plastered walls, about 50 ft. long in front. It was one of the poorer hotels in town and had about 300 rooms. The first floor was a restaurant which, like the hotel, was frequented by low-class people.
7. Europa and Piast Hotels, Swierczewskiego Avenue. These two hotels were near each other; each was located in a four or five-story building and had about 300 rooms. Both of these were low-class hotels; some of the rooms were damaged, there was often no glass in the windows, the bed linen was dirty, and the rooms were often not heated.
8. Polonia Hotel (Hotel Polonia), Swierczewskiego Avenue. This was a large, five-story brick building with gray plastered walls, about 200 ft. across the front. It was a first-class hotel with about 600 rooms which were not very well furnished. Part of the first floor of the hotel was used for offices of the Orbis Travel Agency where one could purchase all train tickets including those for sleepers. There also was a large restaurant on the first floor and a large dance hall on the second floor. The restaurant and dance hall were frequented by rather poorly dressed people.
9. The PDT Department Store (Powszechny Dom Towarowy), Swidnicka Street. This was a modern, seven-story, concrete structure of about 300 x 300 ft. with rounded corners. The outside walls were covered with red tile and glass. The building was visible from a distance and had three front sections. The first floor was occupied by various grocery, clothing, furniture, and sport shops among others. There was also a cafe and a bar in the building where one could obtain dinner and supper. It was usually crowded. The upper floors were occupied by different offices.
10. The Theater Cafe (Kawiarnia Teatralna), Swidnicka Street. This was the best and most comfortable cafe in Wroclaw.
11. Opera House (Gmach Opery), Swidnicka Street. This was six-story brick building with pale yellow plastered walls, about 100 x 150 feet. It was not closely surrounded by other buildings and was the largest theater building in Wroclaw.
12. Monopol Hotel (Hotel Monopol), Wolnosci Place. This was a six-story brick building with pale yellow plastered walls. It was the most luxurious hotel in Wroclaw. It was owned by the Orbis Travel Agency and used mostly by foreign visitors. It had about 400 well-furnished rooms. There are two or three large rooms on the first floor occupied by a restaurant and bar. The food was good and there was very good, modern jazz music. One had to pay 30 zlotys entrance fee after 2100 hours.

SECRET

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13. The Court of Justice (Budynek Sadowy), Podwale Swidnickie Street. This was a large, six-story brick building with dark gray plastered walls, about 200 x 200 ft.
14. Taxi stand (postoj taksowek), Solny Place which was very near the market place (rynek).
15. Gasoline service station (stacja benzynowa), at Rynek (market place), with one pump only.
16. A branch of the Orbis Travel Agency (Oddzial Biura Podrozy Orbis) at Rynek (market place). Here one could buy all railroad tickets except those for sleepers. Air transport "Lot" also had a section there where one could purchase tickets to all points. Buses to and from the airport stopped there.
17. Main Post Office (poczta glowna), Dobrzynska Street. This was an old, five-story red brick building.
18. Voivodship Office (Gmach Wojewodztwa), Piaskowskiego Stanislawo Wojewody Place. This was a new, five-story red brick building, partly covered with plaster. It was constructed in the shape of a half-circle and the front was concave. It was about 50 ft. wide and 250 ft. long.
19. Main buildings of the Wroclaw Polytechnic Institute (Gmachy Glowne Politechniki Wroclawskiej), Wybrzeze Wyspianskiego Street. The main building was a five-story brick construction which had been completely rebuilt in 1950. Behind the main building were two or three other buildings with gray plastered walls. The area occupied by all these buildings was about 300 x 500 ft.
20. New buildings of the Wroclaw Polytechnic Institute (Nowe Budynki Politechniki), Szczytnicka Street. There were two similar five-story brick buildings with pale gray plastered walls of about 60 x 100 ft. each. The buildings were completed in 1953.
21. A section of the Wroclaw Polytechnic Institute (Oddzial Politechniki), 53/55 Prusa Street. This was a very old four-story brick building with very thick, dark gray plastered walls. There was a tower above the roof which contained a large clock and gave the impression that the building was a church. There were no other buildings in the vicinity. There was a park with a pool in front of the building and a yard behind.
22. Taxi stand (postoj taksowek), Grunwaldzki Place.
23. University Clinics (Kliniki Uniwersyteckie) near, and on, Maria Curie Sklodowska Street. This was a group of three-story red brick buildings with German-style steep roofs.
24. Hall of the Heavy Industries (Hala Ciezkiego Przemyslu), on the grounds of the Industrial Fair for Recovered Territories (Plac Wystawy Ziem Odzyskanych). This was of concrete construction, with one wall of glass, and occupied an area of about 20,000 sq. ft. In June 1953 this building was occupied by the Electric Power Laboratory of the Wroclaw Polytechnic Institute.
25. Steel tower (iglica stalowa), close to the Hall of the Heavy Industries. This was a steel construction of the Eiffel-Tower type but sharp-pointed at the top and had been built for the Industrial Exhibition for the Recovered Territories which was held in 1948. It was about 800 ft. high and was visible from long distances.

SECRET

26. Polish Film Studio (Atelier Filmu Polskiego) located in the neighborhood of the Hall of the Heavy Industries. This was a large building of concrete construction, about 500 x 500 ft. There were five small cupolas on the roof, and for this reason it is called "the building under five cupolas" (Budynek pod Trzema Kopulami).

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Annex A: Overlay Based on City Plan of Wroclaw  
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